





2003

ANNUAL REPORT



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TO

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta

The Honorable Cathy Woolard
President, Atlanta City Council

FROM

Georgianne Thomas
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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I am pleased to submit to you the 2003 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC).

In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC has met monthly to carry out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2003 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.

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C O M M I S S I O N

INTRODUCTION 2003

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The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair, elected by the Mayor of Atlanta. The appointee must be ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. Georgianne Thomas served as Chair, and Young Kang as Vice Chair, in 2003.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, three additional Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

The Mayor's appointed members in 2003 include Ms. Davilla Davis and Dr. John Eaves.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

Officers and committee chairs include:

Secretary	Lisa Calhoun
Treasurer	Nick Modares
New Cities	Dr. Augustine Esogbue
PR	David Smith

Other standing committees of the Commission are Fund Raising, Nominating and Economic Development.

Staff

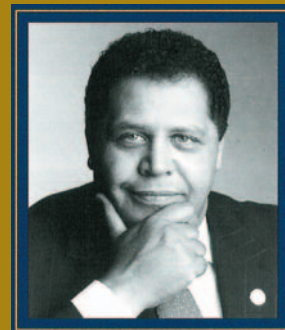
The Commission is supported by the staff of the International Affairs Division of the Mayor's Office. The staff participates in monthly or special meetings, helps shape the Commission's policy and acts as liaison with the Mayor. In 2003, Claire McLeveigh played a vital role as coordinator for the Mayor's Office.

ASCC maintains a web site with press releases, annual reports and information on each of the sister cities.

www.atlantaga.gov/International/SisterCities.aspx

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia - Greece	1994	Ms. Margo Alexander
Brussels - Belgium	1983	
Bucharest - Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Cotonou - Benin	1995	Ms. Charlese Young
Daegu - Korea	1981	Mr. Young Kang
Lagos - Nigeria	1974	Dr. Augustine O. Esogbue
Montego Bay - Jamaica	1972	Mr. Vin Martin
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne - Great Britain	1977	Mr. David Smith
Nuremberg - Germany	1998	Ms. Teri Simmons
Port-of-Spain - Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Kendall - Hamlet
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	1972	Ms. Lisa Calhoun
Ra'anana - Israel	2000	Dr. Arnold Heller
Salcedo - Dominican Republic	1996	Mr. Victor Ramirez
Salzburg - Austria	1967	
Taipei - Taiwan	1974	Mr. David Chang/David Yu
Tbilisi - Republic of Georgia	1988	BG (R) Thomas McCullough
Toulouse - France	1974	Mrs. Betty Davis

Maynard Jackson 1938 - 2003



The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission pays tribute to the lifetime and achievements of Maynard Holbrook Jackson, three-times Mayor of Atlanta, and major proponent of Atlanta's international relations and the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission.

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The New Cities Development Committee

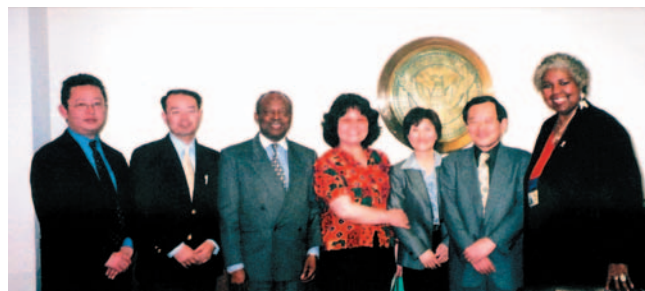
❖ Many cities seeking sister cities relationships with the United States Atlanta continue to find Atlanta a fertile ground to explore their interests. The New Cities committee consisting of Dr. Augustine Esogbue as Chair, members Dr. Arnold Heller, Nick Modares and Brenda Tillman (ex-officio) reviewed and processed several requests. A recommendation from the Committee to withdraw the approval of Canberra, Australia as a sister city of Atlanta was approved by the Commission. This was necessitated by the failure of Canberra to move its original approval to the next stage of official twinning process after a period in excess of two years. The Committee's recommendation not to accept the request of Lobatse, Lesotho on the ground of incompatibility was also approved by the Commission and communicated to relevant officials in Lesotho.

❖ The application of our friendship City of Fukuoka, Japan was reactivated reviewed and recommended for approval by the Commission. This decision was communicated to the Mayor's Office for further action on the twinning process. Atlanta had received several delegations from Fukuoka which became the first city to be processed under the new SCI regulations permitting the sharing of a sister city with another U.S. city. Fukuoka was exemplary in that it followed the application process to the letter. It obtained a formal release from its U. S. sister city of Oakland prior to the completion of its application. The accompanying photograph shows key officers of the city of Fukuoka with key members of the Commission involved with the twinning recommendation after their presentation and acceptance by the Commission in March.

Photo opposite: Mr. Tetsuo Yoshimura, Executive Director, International Affairs Department, Fukuoka, Mr. Eiichi Takamoto, Mr. Toshi Amamoto and Ms. Mariko Shichijo (sister city coordinator), Ms. Sue Renforoe (Chair, Fukuoka-Atlanta Committee) and ASCC Chair Georgianne Thomas, ASCC New Cities Chair Augustine Esogbue.

❖ The 2001 application of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was resuscitated by Mr. Mekeren Tassew, Chair of the Addis Ababa -Atlanta Exploration Committee who was reminded by the New Cities Chair of the outstanding requirements for the application processing to be completed. The Committee welcomed the interest of Hyderabad, India, which was initially sent to the Mayor by the Honorary Consul of India in Atlanta. Application forms were provided to the local committee. A preliminary report by the Committee to the Commission viewed Hyderabad currently twinned with U.S. city of Riverside, California as a premium candidate for acceptance subject to its submission of a complete and acceptable application.

❖ Several other requests and inquiries had been received from an array of cities from various countries including Afghanistan, Senegal, Cameroon, South Africa and China among others. The Committee is operating under the charge to be especially deliberate with the process until a strategic direction on the missions and processes of the Commission had been articulated. This might await the recommendations of the strategic plan whose work is in progress.



Focus on international relations: (Photo opposite) Mayor Shirley Franklin meets members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and Consular Corps representing sister city links. Held at the Georgian Terrace Inn on September 23, the evening's discussion provides perspectives and insights into Atlanta's global relationship strategy.

On November 19, members of the Consular Corps and Atlanta Sister Cities Commission met with Mayor Franklin again to discuss efforts to promote Atlanta's bid to locate the Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA) Secretariat permanently in Atlanta.

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Atlanta Sister Cities figures broaden outreach in international relations

❖ Three members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission have been appointed to roles that will broaden their involvement in steering the international relations of the city and state.

❖ ASCC is delighted to see the extended involvement of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and its members across city, state and national groups. This further underlines the recognition of the Commission's role in the region's international affairs and its relevance to the community.

❖ Lou Zakas, founding chair of the Atlanta – Ancient City of Olympia (Greece) Sister City Committee, has been appointed as Coordinator for the State of Georgia by Sister Cities International (SCI) – the coordinating organization for United States citizen diplomacy network, responsible for creating and strengthening partnerships between U.S. and international communities. In his role, Zakas will represent state membership to the national organization, and respond to the



needs of the sister city programs throughout Georgia, working closely with the state municipal league to promote the concept of sister cities.

❖ Georgia cities have 38 international sister city relationships, of which 17 are with the City of Atlanta.

Lou Zakas.

❖ Two other members of Atlanta Sister Cities Commission have been appointed to serve with the 'Atlanta, Georgia: Gateway to the Americas', the non-profit enterprise that spearheads Georgia's efforts to locate the Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA) Secretariat permanently in Atlanta. The group also seeks to encourage trade and investment with Canada, enhance commerce with Latin America and increase tourism to the city and state.



Hon. Vin Martin

❖ Vin Martin, Honorary Consul of Jamaica and Atlanta Sister Cities Commission member and former Vice Chair, has been appointed by Atlanta Mayor, Shirley Franklin, as board member.

❖ Georgianne Thomas, Chair of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the Business and Civic membership of the group's Advisory Council. Georgianne was also elected by Sister Cities International membership in August 2003 to serve as board member of SCI.

❖ The Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., recognized Georgianne Thomas, for her contribution to international awareness and involvement in the City of Atlanta. The Delta Torch Award is presented to persons and organizations with an exemplary record of public service, particularly in areas that significantly impact the African -American community.



Mayor Shirley Franklin and Georgianne Thomas.

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Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

- ❖ March 25, Greek Independence Day was celebrated with the Greek Community in Atlanta with the Consulate of Greece.
- ❖ Chairman of Ancient Olympia Greece, Mr. Lou Zakas was elected as State Coordinator of Sister Cities. He will continue to be Co-chairman / Chairman of Ancient Olympia (see story on previous page).
- ❖ Dr. Margo Alexander became Chairman of the Atlanta-Ancient Olympia Greece Sister City Committee.



Photo: Co-Chair, Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp; Mayor Shirley Franklin; Former Chair, Lou Zakas and Mrs. Zakas.

- ❖ Dr. Alexander and Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp met with the Consulate of Greece in Atlanta to welcome the new Consul, Mr. Lambros Kakissis. They also met with George Tsonis, the deputy consul to discuss relations between the two cities.
- ❖ Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp, Co-chairman, went to Greece to visit with the Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Mr. Skoularikis in July and in October. Discussions were about the Olympic Flame Ceremony and the 2004 Olympic games in Athens Greece.



Photo: Co-Chair, Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp; Mayor Shirley Franklin; Chair, Dr. Margo Alexander.



- ❖ Dr. Alexander met with the Vice-Mayor of Athens Greece, Mrs. Kalliope Bourdara on her visit to Atlanta at the National Eurytanian Association Convention in June.

Photo: Dr. Alexander meets Vice Mayor of Athens, Mrs. Kalliope Bourdara.

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Atlanta - Daegu Sister City Committee

❖ In response to a major subway accident in the City of Daegu, which killed 198 people, letters of sympathy were sent to the Mayor of Daegu on behalf of the Mayor of Atlanta, ASCC and the Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee.

❖ An appeal by the Atlanta-Daegu committee to support the victim's families prompted the Atlanta Korean-American Association to raise \$7000, which was sent to the Mayor of Daegu.

❖ Following the establishment of an exchange link between Kyeongbuk High school in Daegu and North Atlanta High School (NAHS) in Atlanta, a second student exchange was conducted in 2003 as part of NAHS's International Business Program (IBP). More information on the iBP can be found at www.actco.org.

❖ Ten companies from Daegu participated in the Super Show exposition in Atlanta in February 2003, and 19 companies attended the Bobbin show. The Atlanta-Daegu committee is actively promoting business exchanges between the two cities.



NAHS group in Kyeongbuk High School classroom.

Atlanta - Taipei Sister City Committee



❖ The sister-city relationship between Taipei and Atlanta, established in 1979, has proved mutually beneficial to both cities, providing the opportunity for economic, academic and cultural exchanges.

❖ Taipei, the capital of the Republic of China (Taiwan), has a population of 2.6 million. It shares much in common with Atlanta: A diverse international city, which serves as a political, commercial and cultural center. It is noteworthy that Taipei 101, inaugurated in November 2003, is the world's tallest landmark; it is 508 feet tall.



❖ Taipei City appreciates very much the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta for its help during the outbreaks of SARS at the beginning of 2003. Taipei City Mayor, Dr. Ma, Ying-Jeou, visited Atlanta and paid a visit to the Centers to express Taiwan's gratitude.

❖ The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) represents the interests of Taiwan in the six southeastern states, including Georgia, and promotes close relationships with these states. TECO has been instrumental in promoting the sister-state relations between Atlanta and Taipei.



Taipei Mayor Dr. Ying-Jeou Ma and delegation visit Atlanta in August.

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Atlanta - Bucharest Sister City Committee



❖ The Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City Committee is an organization that helps to hold together members of the Romanian community. It is about networking, educational, cultural, business, and economic development. We have been working very hard to overcome Romania's image as a former soviet block nation, and inform Atlantans, and Americans in general, that Romania and Bucharest is a safe, stable, and an attractive destination for American travel and business. exchanges There were eleven Hollywood movies filmed in Romania in the year 2003.

❖ The committee has received many inquiries regarding the possibilities of doing business in Romania, specifically Bucharest, from businesses located in Atlanta. The committee works closely with the U.S. Embassy in Romania as well as the Commerce Department regarding economic development matters.

❖ The Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City relationship supports the efforts of the Romanian-American Cultural Foundation, which is a local metro-Atlanta cultural center, headed by a native of Romania. There have been many Romanian musicians visiting Atlanta and performing at various functions. The performances of Romanian folk musicians at Atlanta Sister City functions are always well received.

❖ Nick Modares, chairperson of the Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City Committee, is an active member of the executive committee of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, and was elected as treasurer and a board member by the Commission.

❖ During a visit to Bucharest, Romania in September 2003, Nick met with his counterpart, Dr. Doaga Raluca, in the Bucharest mayor's office. Dr. Raluca is the head of the European Integration and International Relations Department and handles the Bucharest-Atlanta Sister City relationship. At the meeting, the following areas of collaboration were discussed:

❖ Exchange visits by office staff members who are actively involved in the Sister City relationship, from both Atlanta and Bucharest City Hall.

❖ Training and experience for youth, actively involved with their local sister city organization. Accommodations to be provided by the host city for the visiting youth.

❖ Meetings and exchange of ideas with experts in the fields of urbanism and urban development, local economic development, and rehabilitation of infrastructure and public services, from prestigious institutions in both Atlanta and Bucharest.

❖ Variety of cultural and community events hosted by each city.

❖ Functions to present and pursue business and foreign investment opportunities, hosted by each city.

Major Activities Planned for 2004:

❖ Work with the Romanian Embassy to re-establish an Honorary Consul Office in Atlanta.

❖ Develop a Web site.

❖ Through the Web site and other means, draw together all of the organizations and individuals known to have contacts with Romania, and especially with the city of Bucharest, to enable communication and mutual support as well as attract increased support for the Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City Committee.

❖ Continue current program and develop additional joint activities with Atlanta's many other Sister City Committees.

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Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Committee, through its members, continued its tradition of community outreach programs in the Metro-Atlanta area, but especially during Black History month. This took the form of various volunteer presentations to community groups to expose them to the cultural riches and heritage of Lagos and Nigeria as well as the facets of renascent Nigeria. Some highlights included the Chair's presentation to Woodward Academy's class on international affairs and another to Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy and the cultural performances of LASCC member, Mr. Alani Ogunlade and his African troupe.

❖ Rite Time Travel and Aviation Services announced plans for direct air travel between Atlanta and Lagos. A ribbon cutting ceremony featured welcome speeches by the Consul of the Nigerian Consulate General, Mr. Boniface Amuzie, and other officials.

❖ The inaugural flight took place on May 27 becoming the first non-stop direct flight between the sister cities of Atlanta and Lagos. This historic event was celebrated both in Atlanta and Lagos with greetings by the U.S. Consul General in Nigeria.

❖ Among those making this flight were Prof. Augustine Esogbue, Founding Chair of the Lagos-Atlanta Committee, Dr. Femi Ajayi, Committee Member, Mrs. Dayo Keshi, Committee Member and Hon. Joe Keshi, the Consul general of Nigeria in Atlanta. The Atlanta delegates participated in various activities in connection with the swearing in ceremonies of the nation's governors including Governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu of Lagos State, and the President of the Federal Republic, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo along with his Vice President, Atiku Abubakar in Abuja. Professor Esogbue also held meetings with officials of the local counterpart, the Atlanta Lagos Committee Chair Honorable Ahmed Gbajabiamila, the Secretary General Prince Bashir Agunloye and Engineer Thompson. Later in the year, Atlanta City Council presented the CEO of Ritetime Travel, Dr. Peter Obafemi, with a proclamation honoring this accomplishment.



LASCC Chair, Prof. Esogbue and members of the Atlanta Lagos Committee with the King of Lagos, Oba (King) Rilwanu Akiolu at the Oba's palace.

❖ The Lagos Committee hosted the visit to Atlanta of the Honorable Commissioner for Facilities Planning, Engineer Gbajabiamila who is also Chair of the Atlanta-Lagos Sister Cities Committee. He met council members and officials of City Hall. The Director of Planning, Beverly Dockeray-Ojo, and Nigerian senior level staff with the City of Atlanta, provided technical assistance on planning protocols for city services and facilities. Meetings were also held with private businesses and other area counties, notably Dekalb. Presentations were made by businesses interested in exploring economic opportunities with our twin city of Lagos.

❖ The Sullivan Summit, which annually hosts a meeting of African American leaders and African Heads of State, was hosted by the Nigerian Head of State and Commander of the Armed Forces, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in July 2003 in Abuja, Nigeria. This seventh meeting, co-hosted by Chief Obasanjo and Ambassador Andrew Young featured an invited presentation by LASC Chair, Professor Esogbue and attendance by LASCC Committee member, Mr. Alani Ogunlade. The Chair took advantage of this event to meet in Lagos with members of the Atlanta-Lagos Committee on various operational and organizational issues.



❖ Atlanta also hosted EKO Club International's third convention which featured a power packed group of visitors led by the Governor of Lagos, His Excellency Chief Bola Ahmed Tinubu. This was his first visit to Atlanta. The Governor visited

City Hall accompanied by the Consul General, Mr. Keshi. Greetings on behalf of the City of Atlanta and the Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee were brought by Councilman Jim Maddox and Professor Augustine Esogbue respectively. The Governor spoke warmly of the relationship between Atlanta and Lagos and the purpose of his mission. He concluded by presenting to Councilman Maddox a large sized statue of the famous and historic EYO mask from the people of Lagos to the people of Atlanta (see picture above showing the mask proudly displayed by Councilman Maddox and Professor Esogbue).

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Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee (continued)

❖ The formal convention opened with an economic summit, moderated by the Consul General of Nigeria in Atlanta, the Hon. Joe Keshi, and featuring presentations by the President of EKO Club International, Alhaji Olusesi Dawodu, Chief (Mrs.) Priscilla Kuye, President of the Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce, Lagos, Ambassador Andrew Young, Chairman Goodworks International and former Mayor of Atlanta (*see photo below*), Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu, the Executive Governor of Lagos and Professor Augustine O. Esogbue, the Founding Chairman, Lagos Atlanta Sister Cities Committee. Professor Esogbue scoped out how the relationship could aid the socio-economic development of Lagos and invited members of EKO Clubs to partner with LASCC in certain projects of mutual interest.



Goodworks President, Andrew Young and LASCC Chair, Prof Esogbue.

❖ The Governor, in subsequent meetings, thanked Prof. Esogbue and pledged closer working ties with LASCC as well as the support of his government in LASCC's future projects. Prominent LASCC members present included Mr. Alani Ogunlade, Engineer Soji Tinubu, Mrs. Dayo Keshi, and new member Mr. Sam Shita Bey. The Governor and his entourage toured various sites of interest to the developmental program of Lagos State including, MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit system), solid waste disposal outfits, the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport expansion project, etc. The Chair of LASCC made a donation of \$250 to EKO Club International towards its computers for Lagos State University project. Both chairs pledged to develop an understanding for future cooperation between their organizations. The visit was considered successful and filled with hope for actualization of the plans developed.

❖ In December 2003, the Chair of the LASCC traveled to Lagos to pay a courtesy visit and deliver greetings and gifts from the Committee and the Mayor of Atlanta as well as the people of Atlanta to the new Oba (King) of Lagos, His Imperial Majesty Oba Riliwanu Akiola of Lagos. As is customary, the Chair made a personal perfunctory presentation to the Chiefs and members of the Obas's palace. Several meetings were also held with the local committee on organizational structures, contemplated projects, and plans for a strong delegation from their committee to attend the Sister Cities International Convention in Dallas in 2004. A meeting was also held with the new director of Lagos State Waterfront Development, Prince Adesegun Oniru, on various possible cultural exchanges, but especially how ASCC could facilitate plans for the 2004 African Heritage Festival, which was to take place in Lagos in March 2004.

❖ Committee members actively participated in various activities sponsored by several Nigerian and African organizations. These included (i) the annual picnic of the Nigerian Women Association of Georgia (NWAG), (ii) the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization of the Americas (NIDO-AMERICAS) 2003 Convention held in Atlanta from October 17 – 18, 2003, (iii) and the Igbodo Development Union National Convention Gala with the Consul General, Mr. Joe Keshi as Patron, LASCC Chair Professor Esogbue as Chair, and attendance by Committee members, Prof. Laurent Monye, Attny Weli, and Mrs. Dayo Keshi.



LASCC Chair, Prof. Esogbue and Mayor Shirley Franklin.

❖ The dinner hosted in September by Mayor Shirley Franklin for the ASCC gave the LASCC Chair the opportunity to formally present to the Mayor a gift from the Lagos counterpart, the Atlanta Lagos Committee. The gift is a carving of the famous traditional GELEDE mask from Lagos.

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Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") has been in existence since 1972. The Committee has been very active over the past several years when it was reactivated and restructured by consent of the members from both cities. The following committees have been designed to maximize the effectiveness of the relationship and to play upon the strengths of each city. The most active sub-committees are as follows:

- Cultural Affairs
- Education
- Fundraising
- Health and Human Services
- Technology Transfer
- Tourism

❖ The Committee has 60 active members but draws upon wide community support to fund the many activities undertaken each year. Meetings are held once per month.

2003 Activities

❖ **Government:** In February, 2003, the mayor of Montego Bay lead a delegation of Montego Bay City managers to Atlanta as the guests of Mayor Franklin. The objective of the mission was to enhance the relationship between both cities and for department heads from Montego Bay to review and learn from the activities of their counterparts in Atlanta. Overall, the visit was a resounding success. Later in the year, Mayor Franklin paid a visit to Jamaica with a stop in Montego Bay. From all indications, this trip was also very successful.

❖ **Education:** In keeping with our mission to assist in educating students in Montego Bay, the Committee awarded a scholarship to a student attending Montego Bay High School. This is the second such scholarship awarded by the Committee.



❖ **Fund Raising:** The Committee held its third annual fund raising golf charity tournament at Stone Mountain Park. Additionally, our annual fund raising ball was held in September. The proceeds from these events were used in conducting our Health Mission and assisted in providing needed medicines to the under served patients seen in Montego Bay.

❖ **Health and Human Services:** The tenth annual medical mission to Montego Bay was undertaken in October, 2003. Our team comprising 55 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals provided needed medical care to over 3,000 patients during the 3 ½ days of the mission. The team also donated a significant quantity of medicine and medical supplies to these patients. Special attention was paid to the HIV/AIDS patients, several of whom are currently receiving their monthly supply of antiretroviral drugs, through the assistance of the Committee.



Members of the Health Mission medical team.

❖ **Technology Transfer:** The Committee presented four computers to a primary school in Montego Bay. Additionally, the Committee presented the Montego Bay fire department with 50 smoke detectors for installation in public places throughout the City.

❖ **Other Events:** In May, the Committee Chairman was hosted by the Mayor and local members of the Montego Bay community in a Civic ceremony. The Chairman was honored for his contributions to the wellbeing of the citizens of Montego Bay. The Key to the City was awarded to him as part of the celebrations. In June, the Jamaican community in Atlanta also recognized him for his services to Atlanta. This honor was bestowed on him for his role as chairman of the Committee and as Jamaican Honorary Consul to Atlanta.

Photo opposite: AMBSCC Chair, Vin Martin with Mayor of Atlanta, Shirley Franklin and Mayor of Montego Bay, Hugh Solomon.

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Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee



- ❖ As a result of initiatives led by academic- and investment-related institutions in Newcastle, an economic development office, representing the North of England, was opened in Atlanta in 1999.
- ❖ The Atlanta office was one of the first to combine interests of three regional economic development agencies, including Newcastle, in expanding economic interests with USA. These organizations have used the model established in Atlanta to merge their entire US representation, including offices in Chicago and Boston.
- ❖ The Atlanta office is actively engaged in identifying companies throughout a 7-state territory that would benefit from using Newcastle's resources in the field of information technology, in areas such as networks, telecommunications, financial services, back office systems and medical technology.
- ❖ The University of Northumbria in Newcastle (UNN) is responsible for the coordination of the European 'Centers Abroad' program of the State of Georgia educational system and has an extensive network of colleges that participate in exchanges for students and academic staff.
- ❖ A trade and investment mission to Newcastle is being planned for 2004 by the British American Business Group of Atlanta - one of the largest groups of its kind in the Americas.



Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

- ❖ The members of the Nürnberg/Atlanta Sister City Committees serve on a volunteer basis to promote the relationship between Atlanta and Nürnberg in the areas of business, culture, fine arts, religion and education. Exchange in these areas has been supported by private sponsorships from companies and by the Office of International Relations of the City of Nürnberg.
- ❖ Teri A. Simmons serves as the Chair of the Atlanta Committee, Jochen Schäfer serves as the Chair of the Nürnberg Committee, Dr. Norbert Schürgers serves as the Director of the Nürnberg Office of International Relations and Christina Plewinski is the Director of Atlanta/Nürnberg relations and our contact at the Office for International Relations in Nürnberg.
- ❖ In 2003, the Nürnberg and Atlanta sister city committees jointly planned many programs, highlighted by the celebration of the fifth year of Partnership. The City of Nürnberg invited a delegation from Atlanta to celebrate the partnership, including Teri Simmons, Atlanta City Councilman Jim Maddox, Shean Atkins, Jeannette Amthor, Kit Prothero, Kathleen Bertrand, and Ursula of the infamous Ursula's Cooking School.
- ❖ The delegation mingled with citizens of Nürnberg at a weekend-long International festival held at the famous Tucher Castle in the city center. The festival featured entertainment and food. Ursula provided demonstrations of southern cooking and Kathleen Bertrand and Kit Prothero gave concerts.



Members of the Atlanta delegation are pictured with Mayor Maly of Nürnberg

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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee

❖ The purpose of the Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee (APSCC) is to provide a structure to allow people to give expression of their common desire for friendship and understanding, by initiating, developing, promoting and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships. The activities pursued by APSCC are educational, cultural, civic and business development in nature. The Committee was established in 1987 and has 17 members.

2003 Highlights

- ❖ Continuation of the Fire Service Exchange Program. Chief Fire Officer, John Springle visited Atlanta for six weeks of training and to exchange the adaptation of fire service technology as it affects both the City of Atlanta, Georgia and the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services.
- ❖ The establishment of a city-to-city relationship between students of junior high school age. Participants were Rohan Thompson, of the Queen of Angels Catholic School in Roswell, Georgia. (Rohan is the son of Claire McLeveighn, Director External Affairs and International Relations, Office of the Mayor), and Abraham Fergusson student of Dinsley Trinity Government School, Trinidad. Abe was one of the students who took the first walk into the new millennium with the Mayor of Port of Spain.
- ❖ Facilitated in the launch of the Ambassadors program in Port of Spain, Trinidad, patterned after the Ambassadors program in Atlanta.
- ❖ Members of the Cultural Committee visited Trinidad and Tobago for Carnival.
- ❖ Exhibition of Highlights of Trinidad's Carnival 2003 were made to a cross section of the international and American community residing in Atlanta (Cultural Committee May/July).
- ❖ Participated in the launch of Friends of Caribbean Conversations at the Roti Place on Pine Ridge, Decatur. The event took the form of a book signing "Beyond Boundaries" – the intellectual tradition of Trinidad and Tobago in the nineteenth century. The author Dr. Selwyn R. Cudjoe, in his book demonstrates that the discussions of race, politics, literature, art, theology, science and culture that were taking place in Trinidad and Tobago were part of similar discussions taking place beyond the islands' boundaries.

❖ APSCC at the request of the Minister of Education, wife of the President of Trinidad & Tobago, facilitated a visit to Atlanta by a group of design build contractors for the Secondary Education Modernization Program. They are charged with the responsibility for rehabilitation of approximately 100 secondary schools, construction of sixteen new secondary schools, expansion and upgrade of two teachers' colleges, and construction of 14 primary schools, to be completed by 2007.

❖ The purpose of the visit was to observe modern schools in action, talk to professionals in the construction sector, understand how modern concepts in education would affect the design of new schools, study maintenance needs of the new technology, efficient schools and methods of ensuring that physical structures are flexible – to meet the needs of the schools of "2020".

❖ APSCC established the necessary contacts that enabled them to meet their goals, viz: City Councilman Jim Maddox, Chair of the Advisory Committee for International Relations, Carolyn Hart – International Relations - Atlanta Public Schools Systems, The Board and members of Atlanta Public Schools Systems, Mr. Eric Wilson – Atlanta Schools Board Post 7 at large, Cedar Grove High Schools, Dekalb County Board of Educators, B&E Engineers, and the Center for Trade and Technology.

❖ Assisted in the return to Trinidad, the human remains of Kevin Khan, a Masters Degree student at Georgia Technical Institute.

❖ In October, the President APSCC along with the Director and members of the Metro Atlanta Caribbean Chamber of Commerce visited Montego Bay, Jamaica. They met with some of the business community and business representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, in order to promote business exchanges between Atlanta and the islands.



Visit of Port-of-Spain Chief Fire Officer John Springle with (L-R) Director of External Affairs and International Relations, Office of the Mayor of Atlanta, Claire McLeveighn; Public Information Officer, Atlanta Fire Department, Jolene Butts Freeman; and APSCC Chair, Norma Kendall-Hamlet.

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Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee



❖ On 19 January 2003, Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski welcomed the 2003 Israel Solidarity Mission, the first Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta (JFGA) delegation to visit Ra'anana since the official twinning on 22 July 2001. 110 members of the Atlanta Jewish community visited the Ra'anana Absorption Center to observe classes for recent immigrants from Argentina. The JFGA led another mission to Israel (November 11 – 20) that also included a Nov. 14 Ra'anana visit to lay a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance for Ra'anana's fallen soldiers at the Yad Labanim Cultural Center.

❖ As a result of the first JFGA mission, Davis Academy teacher Ruth Hilsen began organizing with Ra'anana International Affairs Coordinator, Lydia Weitzman, for joint projects to take place between Davis Academy Middle School students and corresponding Ra'anana schools. In May, 55 Shaked and Ziv Elementary School students of Ra'anana mailed letters to Davis Academy sixth and seventh graders and later exchanged pen pal letters with Congregation Beth Shalom Religious School students. The Davis Academy and Congregation Beth Shalom are both located in suburban Dunwoody, Georgia. The pen pal project has been expanded to include three more Ra'anana elementary schools - Bilu, Yavneh and Ariel - to exchange letters with students of Atlanta's Epstein School.

❖ The Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee, in collaboration with Global Sports Ambassadors, hosted a basketball team from Rimon Junior High School August 1 - 10, 2003. The exchange was organized and coordinated by Aaron Bernstein and Lavon Mercer, founders of Global Sports Ambassadors. The Israeli students were hosted by families and players from the Marcus Jewish Community Center and experienced a basketball camp with players from South Atlanta High School. Aaron Bernstein is vice-chair of the Atlanta - Ra'anana Committee and Youth and Sports Program Director. Lavon Mercer is the assistant athletic director at Spelman College.



❖ The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICCSE) assists companies in Israel and the Southeastern United States to do business or engage in joint ventures. Ilan Friedman, AICC Vice President, visited Ra'anana during the week of September 1 - 7, 2003 to expand trade between Atlanta and Ra'anana-based companies. On September 14, 2003, Tom Glaser, AICC President, after lunching with Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski and his wife Caron, met with six local companies at the economic development office - MATI.

❖ The Municipality of Ra'anana's Environmental Recycling Quality Unit requested information and learning from the experiences of recycling projects in Atlanta and its sister cities to help shape a pilot program. Atlanta Sister City and Atlanta Jewish community members were also encouraged to contribute to the Hassan donation fund for needy Ra'anana school children.

❖ On October 29, 2003, Mayor Zeev Bielski was reelected to a fourth term in office by a resounding 78% of the vote. The Mayor will continue to work for the benefit of the residents of Ra'anana and is committed to developing the twinning with the City of Atlanta. Mayor Bielski looks forward to a future visit by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin.

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Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

- ❖ On February 27, 2003 the Dominican International Association of Georgia and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee celebrated the 159th Dominican Independence Day at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium.
- ❖ Atlanta Councilman Jim Maddox represented Mayor Shirley Franklin and presented a declaration to the Dominican community residing in the Atlanta metropolitan district.
- ❖ Victor Ramirez, President of the Dominican International Association, presented a colorful, traditional carnival mask to Mayor Shirley Franklin.
- ❖ Dominican artist Pedro Rivas exhibited his paintings on this occasion. Guests were treated to a taste of Dominican coffee and appetizers.



Carnival mask presented to Mayor Shirley Franklin. It was made in Dominican Republic by an artisan of La Vega.

Organizing committee, and helper, for the event held in Atlanta City Hall Atrium, celebrating the 159th anniversary of Dominican Independence.



- ❖ For the first time, 32 members, relatives and special guests of the Atlanta International School Jazz Band, made a five day tour of the Dominican Republic. The itinerary included a pair of concerts given at the Saint George High School in the capital of Santo Domingo, and at the most famous TV variety show of the nation 'Chevere Nights'. The group then went to Atlanta's sister city of Salcedo and were welcomed at Salcedo City Hall by Mayor Elido Perez and Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Chair of the Salcedo-Atlanta Sister City Committee.
- ❖ They visited the Mirabal Sisters Museum and met Ms. Dede Mirabal, surviving sister of the three Dominican heroines. Students, parents and guests were taken to the construction site of Park Atlanta at the entrance of the city of Salcedo.
- ❖ In the last three days of the tour, the group went sightseeing in the capital of Santo Domingo to historic and cultural sites including the Colonial Zone, the Conservatory of Music, El Conde, and El Malecon. They spent the weekend at a resort in the renowned beach of the Dominican Republic: Boca Chica.



AIS Jazz Band visits the Mirabal Sisters Monument and Parque Atlanta.



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Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee

- ❖ 2003 was a great year for the Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Sister City relationship.
- ❖ At the January meeting at Georgia State University International School of Business, Mestre Fran, the founder of Capoeira Maculele, along with his team, demonstrated Capoeira - a unique art form that first manifested over 500 years ago among enslaved African people living in colonial Brazil.
- ❖ Committee representatives participated in meetings at Atlanta City Hall with Mr. Tiberio Monteiro, from Recife, Brazil. Mr. Monteiro's visit was made through Georgia Partners of the Americas. Its purpose was to learn how Georgia's city administrators have collaborated on regional issues in the past.
- ❖ In November, a reception for Ms. Brazil 2003, Gislaine Ferreira, was hosted by the committee in conjunction with the Mayor's Office and the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission. The Impression Management, a professional training company, coordinated the first visit to the U.S. of Ms. Brazil, who was accompanied by the former Ms. Brazil 1997, Nayla Micherif. At the reception, Ms. Ferreira discussed her platform theme, empowering women in business. The Professional Image Award 2003 was given to Ms. Remedios Gomez-Arnau, the Consul General of Mexico.
- ❖ The year ended with a committee meeting at the Blue Trout Restaurant with nineteen individuals in attendance.
- ❖ Our goals for 2004 are to empower the Brazilian community in Atlanta and Rio de Janeiro, build stronger relationships with other Brazilian organizations and conduct fundraisers to support our events and projects.



Ms. Brazil 2003 Gislaine Ferreira and Chair of Rio de Janeiro Committee, Lisa Calhoun

The November reception group includes Lisa Calhoun, Ana Maria Leao, Consul General Ms. Gomez, Parker Geiger, Ms. Brazil 2003 - Gislaine Ferreira, Greg Pridgeon, Georgianne Thomas, Ms. Brazil 1997 - Nayla Micherif.



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Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

The Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee had a very active and productive year in 2003. We participated in several major projects:

❖ Early in the year we learned that one of our dear friends from Tbilisi had become infected with Hepatitis C as a result of a blood transfusion received during a wound treatment in 2001. It was apparent that assistance was needed but we were not sure how to proceed. We consulted with Dr. Ken Walker and learned that the treatment could take from 6 - 12 months and medical cost would be approximately \$25,000, with additional expenses associated with transportation to the US, lodging and meals for him and his wife who served as interpreter.

❖ With the help of several agencies and generous individuals, transportation was arranged through the United Way International and Delta Sky Wish program. Chief Master Sergeant (R) Pearson Deloach and COL. (R) Frank Rossiter made arrangements with Savannah Memorial Medical Center for treatment and necessary medications. A biopsy was done during the week of July 7 confirming that our friend did have Hepatitis C and that his condition was treatable. Many thanks to Savannah Memorial Medical Center and especially to Doctor Mark E Murphy and Nurse Shannon O'Briant, for their contribution to a great humanitarian effort. Our friends departed for Tbilisi on July 28 with a year's supply of medication.



Dr. Frank Rossiter, Dr. Mark Murphy, Svetla, Nurse Shannon O'Briant and Bidzina Jgkarva.

❖ During their stay in Atlanta, our friends had the opportunity to visit with committee members and friends of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Committee. This included a dinner with Congressman Phil Gingrey and his wife Billie, MG David Poythress and his wife Elizabeth, BG Terry Nesbitt and his wife Letha, Mr. Jim Wooten and his wife Ann. A



Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister Cities Committee with Svetla (blue dress), Bidzina (white shirt) and Georgianne Thomas, Chair of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission.

farewell dinner at La Madeleine was attended by participants in the project.

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❖ In March four members of The Atlanta Tbilisi Committee, in conjunction with Friendship Force, traveled to Easton General Hospital in Maryland to dismantle a Radiological and Fluoroscopic (RF) machine for shipment to the Guramashvili Clinic in The Republic of Georgia. The unit weighed over 16000 lbs and required



5 people 2 days to dismantle. The unit was transported to Atlanta until overseas shipment could be coordinated through Friendship Force and Counterpart.

Loaded Truck with John Rogers, Jim McConnell, Lewis Seagraves, Jack Hassinger, and Tom McCullough.

❖ In August and September we had the pleasure of hosting Mrs. Megi Kutateladze a doctor from Tbilisi who was studying at Grady Hospital under the auspices of Doctor Ken Walker. She spent six weeks in Atlanta and was hosted on weekends by several friends. During her visit it was confirmed that her husband had also become infected with Hepatitis C via blood transfusion. Based on our earlier experiences we were able to coordinate medical needs and obtain necessary medication to successfully treat his condition.



BG Terry Nesbitt, Mary McCullough, Megi Kutateladze, Letha Nesbitt, Tom McCullough

❖ During the year meetings were held with Brian Propp of Counterpart International to discuss future projects in Tbilisi. We are currently working with Sergey Khomchenko, the Counterpart Regional Director for the Caucasus. A meeting was also held with Mrs. Pat Moller, DCM, US Embassy in Tbilisi to discuss coordination of projects for 2004.

❖ Our goals for 2004 are to increase membership, solicit participation by the local community of immigrants from Tbilisi and continue to provide humanitarian assistance.

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Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

- ❖ The Atlanta-Toulouse Sister City Committee has had an outstanding year of activities, projects, programs, and a trip to Toulouse for the group. The dues paid membership is 76.
- ❖ This year several of our members visited Toulouse and also entertained guests from Toulouse in our homes. Many of our members correspond regularly with friends made from the sister city exchanges.
- ❖ Following the devastation caused by a major explosion in September 2001, ATSCC has initiated a project to send a Phoenix sculpture to Toulouse as a symbol of rising from the ashes, as was Atlanta's experience. Atlanta artist, David Landis, has been chosen by the city fathers of Toulouse to produce the statue (see image - above).



L-R: Sherry Quayle and Betty Davis, Susan Stone (a member who moved to France) and Andre Bordes of Toulouse in Compans Caffarelli Park.

- ❖ The committee's third annual Fete des Rois, a traditional Franco-philie Epiphany event, was celebrated on January 5 in the French manner featuring the King's Cake with its baked-in prize that designates its finder as 'king' of the party. Guests bring their least favorite holiday gift to exchange.
- ❖ On February 13, a tasting of the food and wine of Southwest France, accompanied by dinner, took place at the home of committee member, John Lyons, with Labe Mell as presenter.
- ❖ The committee held its annual meeting April 7 at the Southern Center for International Studies. The speaker was Peter White, who spoke on the world situation, particularly French-American relationships.

- ❖ The following officers were inducted: Betty Davis - Chairman, Mark Long - VP Development, John Lyons - Phoenix Project, Marianne Broadbear - Programs, Pat Leak - Hospitality, Mary Jane McCraney - Co-Hospitality, Jennifer Davis - Travel, Charlotte Sprawls - Secy., Carol Evans - Treasurer, Nicole Saade - Publicity, Patrice Davis - Telephone Chair, Carolyn Wills - Ex-Officio, Ray Young - Ex-Officio, Board Members: Sherry Quayle, Eric Wallens, Lee Evans & Judy Fritz.

- ❖ On April 20 an Easter Brunch took place at the home of one of our members, at which everyone wore a hat, and on April 24, a Jazz Concert was performed by Philippe LeJeune from Toulouse at Moulin Rouge at Paris on Ponce.

- ❖ At the May 15 monthly meeting a speaker discussed the history of Cartier and demonstrated its products.



- ❖ The August meeting was luncheon at Joel's restaurant and a kitchen tour (photo).

- ❖ On September 12 and 19 members attended an informational meeting about the culture, the desert, the coastline, the oak forests and the friendly people of Tunisia.

- ❖ At the September meeting at Alliance Française, speaker Claude Wegscheider talked about the role of the alliance in the world.



At the 'Wonderful World of Wine' auction, Rene Serge Marty, French Consul General, and John Lyons (ATSCC) start the bidding.

- ❖ On November 8 the Phoenix group hosted 'The Wonderful World of Wine'. Guests enjoyed wines from around the world as Yves Durant, National Sommelier, explained the intricacies of wine tasting. A silent auction took place.

The Toulouse group operates a Web site.

For updated information please visit - www.sprawls.org/ATSCC.

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Members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission



Produced by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission
Public Relations Committee

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